



The Wild Horses of Wyoming Adobe Town & Salt Wells

- The Adobe Town and Salt Wells Herd Management Areas (HMAs) are the largest free-roaming wild horse populations in Wyoming.
- In 1999, BLM estimated over 11,000 wild horses spanned their ranges. Today, they number 1,000 or less – a loss of 90% of the herds in less than ten years.
- In 2004, they became the focus of a new population census and counting technique, which was conducted in partnership between BLM and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS).
- The combined methods used between BLM and USGS increased the actual wild horse populations seen in the aerial surveys by as much as 86%. As a result of these “projected” population highs, more round ups were scheduled.
- In the last three years, BLM has reported wild horse numbers have ranged from 860 to over 3,000. The populations BLM reported to the public never matched USGS population reports one time throughout the entire three-year study.
- In 2003, BLM reported 1,947 wild horses were removed during three separate round ups but USGS reports 2,350 wild horses were removed in just one August round up alone.
- In 2005, BLM reported 1,900 wild horses could be found in the HMAs. In just two years, BLM has reported removing 2,200 wild horses - more than the entire population was reported to be when they began. The last direct count of wild horses was in April 2007, where 763 wild horses were actually seen in both HMAs.
- In Adobe Town, Salt Wells and the areas “outside” their boundaries, round ups have been conducted 8 times in 8 years.
- According to USGS, BLM had no records available of separate wild horse reproduction or mortality rates, despite almost 40 years of “management” of the largest herds in Wyoming.
- Though BLM reported no wild horses have been removed from the Adobe Town HMA since August 2005, the National Program Office has reported a decline in populations.

- 460 wild horses are now “missing” from what populations were reported to be prior to the January 2007 round ups. USGS has cited one reason for these lower populations may be attributed to wild horses dying between the December 2006 and the April 2007 surveys.

-All information taken from-

“The Wild Horses of Wyoming, Adobe Town/Salt Wells-A Tale of Tallies”, C.R. MacDonald, June 2008